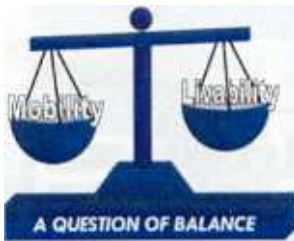




Florida Department of Transportation Livable Communities Initiative



The Livable Communities initiative is FDOT's process for balancing the need to

provide mobility on State transportation facilities with the needs and desires of the communities through which the facilities pass. In essence, this initiative provides flexibility in design, where appropriate and feasible, to make facilities more livable.

Community outreach is a critical component of livable communities projects. Residents, business owners and other stakeholders are brought into the decision-making process early on through charrettes and other public outreach activities. This input is essential for making the targeted corridors livable for those who live, work, shop and play there.



Transportation Design for Livable Communities

It is the policy of FDOT to consider Transportation Design for Livable Communities (TDLC) features on the State Highway System when such features are desired, appropriate and feasible. This involves providing a balance between mobility and livability. TDLC features should be based on consideration of the following principles:

1. Safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transit users.
2. Balancing community values and mobility needs.
3. Efficient use of energy resources.
4. Protection of the natural and manmade environment.
5. Coordinated land use and transportation planning.
6. Local and state economic development goals.
7. Complimenting and enhancing existing FDOT standards, systems and processes.

In many cases, livable communities projects are closely related to the concepts of New Urbanism. New Urbanism harks back to the days when most communities were self-contained so that residents could live, work and shop all within a walkable distance. As the car became our primary means of transportation, it enabled people to live farther away from their workplace. The resulting automobile-oriented design often creates distinct incompatibilities with the surrounding community, making it difficult for residents to enjoy a good quality of life.

Livable communities projects begin with a study that takes into account the land use choices, transportation needs, socioeconomic factors and environmental needs that are unique to each individual area. The goal is to create a corridor that is both acceptable to FDOT and to the stakeholders in the corridor. Inherent to this process is the need for all parties to accept the inevitable tradeoffs between mobility and livability.

If the adopted study recommendations result in minor changes to a corridor, they can be implemented as soon as funding is identified (if the recommendations

affect an existing

FDOT project, the changes will be incorporated into the project). If major corridor changes are recommended, a more detailed level of analysis – a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study – will likely be required.



For more information on the Livable Communities Initiative, contact the Florida Department of Transportation, District Six:

Rafael Dearazoya
305-377-5910
Rafael.dearazoya@dot.state.fl.us

Janet Seitlin
305-470-5826
janet.seitlin@dot.state.fl.us